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and, at the other end, terminated in a loop, or some equivalent for fastening the truck and frame together.”

One page 5 after line ¹⁸11, please insert the following paragraph:

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“In yards handling coils of metal, it is common to use ram trucks. These are fork truck with the fork assembly unfastened and replaced by a moldboard 106 onto which a length of heavy pipe has been mounted to act as a “ram” 104. The operator simply runs this ram 104 into the core of a coil to lift and transport it. Figures 6 and 7 show an alternate embodiment of the rail car lid lifter 10 in which the base 12 is considerably enlarged in height to accommodate a through collar 102, welded in place under the top member of base 12. This collar is sized so that a ram 104 is an easy fit inside as seen in Figure 7. Pockets 108 and 110 are provided so that lifter 10 can be used with a regular fork truck as well. The advantage of using the ram-adapted configuration is that the same truck unit can handle lids and coils. For safety, moldboard 106 and lifter 10 have attached matching ears 112 with holes, one on one member and two on the other, that engage aligning the holes so that a pin, not shown, can lock the two units together. Figure 6 also shows an optional accessory which is shackle 112 to which a safety hook or the like can be attached. This arrangement is useful for various lifting operations such as lifting boat engines from boats pulled alongside piers.”

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 2, 6 and 12.

Please amend the following claims:

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1.(amended). As an accessory to a fork lift truck, a [A] rail car lid lifter for lifting and removing and replacing the removable lid of a rail car, said lid fitted with a lid handle enclosing an open-sided space, by engaging the lifter with the truck and using the lifting

A₃ 5 and moving capabilities of the truck, comprising: a base configured as a palette adapted for fork truck handling, said base having a lower surface for ground contact and an upper surface for mounting; said fork truck adaptation comprising apertures extending through said base for the introduction in use of the forks of said fork truck; a frame mounted [thereto] to said base, said frame comprising a structure interconnecting said base and a boom, said boom comprising an elongated structure extending from a proximal end mounted to the frame [at one end of the boom] and having generally at the [other] distal end at least one fitting for engaging [a] the lid handle and said boom having upper and lower surfaces in general parallelity to the lower surface of said base and said surfaces spaced at said distal end to fit within said open sided space of said lid handle, wherein the assembly of said boom, frame and base freely stands upon the ground on the lower surface of said base when not in use.

A₄ 3.(amended).. The lid lifter of claim 1 wherein there is [a saddle or plug fitting on the upper surface of the boom and] at least one hook on the lower surface of the boom.

4. .(amended). The lid lifter of claim 1 wherein there is [saddle or plug fitting on the upper surface of the boom and spaced therefrom] a limit stop comprising a protuberance on said upper surface between the [saddle] distal end of the boom and the frame whereby an engaged lid handle cannot inadvertently slide toward the frame beyond said stop.

5.(amended). The lid lifter of claim 1 wherein there is a safety strap comprising a strong, flexible means, flexibly attached to the frame at one end, and of sufficient length to wrap around a part of the fork truck and, at the other end, terminated in fastening means whereby an operator may removably secure the frame to [a] said fork truck during fork truck handling.

A₅ 7. (amended) The lid lifter of claim 1 [2] wherein the fitting is a plug and the plug has an elastomeric covering.

AL 9 (amended). The lid lifter of claim 1 wherein the end of the boom distal from the frame has a lifting [shackle] hook fitting [thereon] on the lower surface whereby a lid handle can be engaged by said hook fitting during fork truck handling.

10 (amended) The [A] rail car lid lifter of claim 1 adapted for ram truck handling, said ram truck comprising a fork truck wherein the fork assembly has been unfastened and replaced by a moldboard onto which a length of heavy pipe has been mounted to act as a ram for engaging and moving coils, said lifter further comprising a base configured as a palette adapted for ram truck handling, a frame mounted thereto, and a boom mounted to the frame at one end of the boom and having generally at the other end at least one fitting for engaging a lid handle wherein the assembly of said boom, frame and base freely stands on the base when not in use and wherein the base further comprises] a collar extending through the base for reception of said ram.

11. (amended) The lid lifter of claim 10 wherein the frame has at least one ear attached thereto with a hole therein that matches at least one ear with a hole therein. attached on the moldboard [pf] of the ram truck so that in use with said ram truck a pin can lock the [two] lifter and the ram truck together.

Please add the following new claims:

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A7 131 1 The lid lifter of claim 1 wherein the at least one fitting is a saddle on the upper surface of the boom.

14. The lid lifter of claim 1 wherein the at least one fitting is a plug on the upper surface of the boom.

REMARKS